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Volume 13, Number 17

EBONICS DEBATE IS EMPTY, HARVARD PROFESSOR SAYS

BOISE, Idaho (AP)—The debate over Ebonics is diverting attention from underlying problems of racism, Harvard University professor Cornel West said.

Appearing before 1,400 people at Boise State University, he took on Ebonics, racism in American society and other matters. West was the keynote speaker for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Human Rights Celebration. The Oakland, Calif. school board ignited a national debate by endorsing a plan to use Ebonics to teach English, claiming initially that Ebonics is a genetically-based language.

West called that an intellectually empty argument. "But the motivation is very real," he said, to gain subsidies for teaching children. The discussion should center around, for example, paying teachers more so they will want to teach young people, he said.

West is author of the best seller "Race Matters," and professor of religion and Afro-American studies at Harvard.

He attacked what he sees as a failure to come to grips with racism in America. Going back to the slave trade, he said, "American democracy is paradoxically the great experiment in self-government, but yet is deeply rooted in an ideology of racial supremacy."

"To talk about race in America is to raise the problem of evil in America," he said. "This is not P.C. (political correctness) chit chat. This is human suffering we're talking about."

Democracy has failed in the "chocolate" inner cities, West said, where levels of despair are rising.

"There will never be enough police and prisons to deal with overwhelming despair," he said.

Values of care and community are pushed to the margins, he warned, in what he called a "homogenized culture, dominated by 'market mentalities.'"

BILL COSBY HIRES PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR TO PROBE SON'S KILLING

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Bill Cosby's hire of a Hollywood security consultant to monitor the investigation of his son's killing, but according to sources he is not dissatisfied with police.

Gavin DeBecker, whose celebrity clients include Michael J. Fox, was hired last week, according to another source.

Cosby wants DeBecker to "help the family get a better understanding to what the LAPD is doing," the source said.

DeBecker, who was a consultant to the county district attorney's office in O.J. Simpson's murder trial, declined to say if he was working for Cosby. But he did say he was not investigating the shooting.

"The only organization investigating the homicide of Ennis Cosby is the LAPD," he said.

Ennis Cosby, 27, was shot to death early Jan. 16 while changing a tire on a road just off a freeway. There have been no arrests.

Police Chief Willie Williams, interviewed on NBC's "Today" show, said he did not feel threatened by Cosby's decision to hire a private investigator. "I understand... that he needs someone who can spend full-time watching and seeing what's going on while he gets back to his regular routine, and I don't consider that a threat," Williams said.

But police Cmdr. Tim McBride expressed surprise at Cosby's decision, saying detectives have been in daily contact with the entertainer.

Meanwhile, Los Angeles County on Tuesday withdrew its offer of a \$12,500 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of Ennis Cosby's killer. The Cosby family had asked that taxpayer money not be used as a reward.

That still leaves \$375,000 in reward money, however. The National Enquirer offered \$100,000 and Globe Communications, \$200,000. Both refused to withdraw their offers despite requests from the Cosby. The state has offered a \$50,000 reward and the city has put up \$25,000.



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CITY NEWS

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O.J. verdict creates grounds for appeal

Will any judge reverse verdict

BY LINDA DEUTSCH
AP SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—The judge in O.J. Simpson's civil trial gave defense lawyers plenty of ammunition for a possible appeal, including testimony about a failed lie-detector test and an unauthenticated call from "Nicole" to a battered woman's shelter.

But will any appeals court take a chance and overturn the politically popular verdict? Not likely, say the experts.

"I would be surprised by an appellate court reversal in this case because of the O.J. factor," said Loyola

University Law School Dean Laurie Levenson. "You would need two judges on appeal to say, 'I vote for O.J.,' and those are judges that will have to face reelection."

The issues for appeal go on and on: Alleged jury misconduct. A ban on testimony by Mark Fuhrman, the ex-detective the defense accused of a racist plot to frame Simpson. An undated letter from Nicole Brown Simpson accusing her ex-husband of beating her. Even the size of the jury's compensatory damage award of \$8.5 million to the family of Ronald Goldman, slashed to death June 12, 1994, beside Ms. Simpson.

Simpson's lawyers haven't said whether they will appeal, but the

wealth of what are believed to be reversible errors by Superior Court Judge Hiroshi Fujisaki has had pundits handicapping the case for weeks. Virtually all of his most controversial rulings went against the defense.

"This case is likely to be before the courts for years to come," Lance Ito, judge in the criminal case, told the Pasadena Star-News.

One obstacle: The Goldman and Brown families can start seizing his bank accounts and auctioning off his property even during the appeals process unless Simpson posts a bond equal to 150 percent of the verdict award.

Another problem is that the handicappers don't give him much chance

of success, even those who feel the law would be on Simpson's side.

Harvard Law Professor and appellate specialist Alan Dershowitz, who worked for Simpson in his criminal trial, says there is little chance of success.

"If this were Jones v. Smith it would be terrific grounds for a reversal," said Dershowitz. "But in this case the names of the parties mean more than the legal issues."

Of all the errors, the experts said the most egregious was admission of testimony about an unauthenticated phone call to a battered woman's shelter from a woman named Nicole complaining about a husband who was

See MANY GROUND/page 3

REMEMBERING THE MOVEMENT

NEWARK:

The Riots of '68

by Sonya Kimble-Ellis

NEWARK—Rioting and racial unrest followed the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on that day in April of 1968. News reports informed the community of the senseless shooting.

Disbelief was the initial reaction. Then anger.

Do-Lores Kimble, a former office manager at Summit Bank in West Orange, was a resident of Newark at the time and remembers the turmoil well. "People started gathering outside after they heard of King's death on the radio and TV," Mrs. Kimble told City News.

King's persistent advocacy of nonviolent resistance was among the



MOMSAD helps murder victims cope

by Daryle L. Jenkins

EAST ORANGE, N.J.—The spotlight given to the shooting death of Bill Cosby's son Ennis also shines on another distressing issue—the disproportionate number of African-American children killed by violent crime. Adding to the pain is the lack of attention or concern given to this problem. Parent trying to deal with the loss of a son or daughter it is very disheartening to find almost no support.

As a result one such parent took action. Christina MonCreif started Mothers of Murdered Sons and Daughters (MOMSAD). In July, 1993, her son Kenneth Williams, 21, was killed in East Orange by two men who are now serving life sentences for his murder. For her it was a struggle coping with the loss, and she especially wanted to bring attention to the reasons why she is without a son and his young daughter Latifah is without her father. On December 23 of that year, which would have been Kenneth's 22nd birthday, she held a candlelight prayer vigil on the steps of City Hall. It was at the suggestion of her daughter Lashawn Williams, who is also an attorney. "She was the one who got me started," Ms. MonCreif recalled. "We didn't know how to keep this alive at the time, and we had to for his daughter."

Ms. MonCreif felt this had to go further, however. She knew she wasn't the only parent going through this, and she was shocked to find no support groups for parents who need that shoulder

See MOMSAD/page 5



Kenneth MonCreif at an early age with his mother, Christina MonCreif. Photo inset taken months before his death.

Watt's slur doesn't deter Jackson

BY DARLENE SUPERVILLE
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON—Though angry about a GOP lawmaker's "race-busting poverty pimp" slur, Jesse Jackson accepted an invitation from House Speaker Newt Gingrich to be his guest at President Clinton's State of the Union address.

Jackson said in an interview with The Associated Press that Gingrich had disavowed the comment by Rep. J.C. Watts of Oklahoma, the Republican point man for responding to Clinton's address, and had told him he thought it was "unbecoming."

In a profile published Tuesday, The Washington Post quoted Watts, the only black Republican in Congress, as saying he finds it hard to mask his contempt for "race-busting poverty pimps" like Jackson and District of Columbia Mayor Marion Barry.

Jackson said he had asked Gingrich, R-Ga., about Watts' comments and whether they were made on behalf of the Republican Party or the speaker.



Representative J.C. Watts

"He said no. He distanced himself from Watts' statement and said he would put that in writing," Jackson said of his conversation with Gingrich.

Jackson also said Gingrich "had had asked Watts about it today because he thought it was unbecoming."

Jackson said he personally found the statement "both unkind and inaccurate. I don't know Mr. Watts that well."

In a written response to Jackson's

son, Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr., D-Ill., Watts noted that the Post article "does not bracket your father's name nor Mayor Barry's name in the quotation marks which embraced the quotation you found so offensive."

"In fact, I used this term in a lengthy overarching conversation with a reporter about some of the leadership in the black community, but not in reference to Rev. Jackson or Mayor Barry," Watts said in his defense.

The Washington Post stood by its report.

"We have no reason to think that what we printed was inaccurate," said Deborah Hader, deputy editor of the Style section at the Post. "We have utter confidence in our reporting."

Asked whether he had received a written apology from Gingrich, Jackson said he hadn't, but added, "I take him at his word."

Lauren Maddox, a spokeswoman for Gingrich, said the speaker had assured Jackson earlier Tuesday that he was still welcome to watch the speech from the House chamber.

"I think he talked to him... and wanted to make sure that the reverend felt welcome this evening and felt



Representative Jesse Jackson Jr.

comfortable to come and sit in the speaker's box," Ms. Maddox said.

Defending his father, Rep. Jackson told Watts in a letter that the comment was "uncivil, immature, ignorant and insensitive."

"Disagreements over issues and policy is one thing. Calling people names is another," the younger Jackson said. "I do not know your father or his views, but even if I disagreed with him, I would never refer to him in such derogatory terms."



Patti LaBelle's Valentine Day tip: "Don't say it with flowers."

By Jan M. Edgenton Johnson

It was 11:00 a.m. as I waited to talk with Patti LaBelle, an icon in the music world and now making her second foray into the cosmetic world with Patti LaBelle perfume a new product line under Flori Roberts.

The svelte and glamorous Ms. LaBelle arrived yawning having already done two morning TV pro-

grams and now getting ready to introduce her line to a waiting crowd in the cosmetics department at the Herald Square Macy's in New York.

"I love cosmetic as you can tell. I love to smell good. I've always, always wanted to have my own makeup line, perfume line and panty hose line—something I haven't done yet... but if I don't make a dime from it, at least I've tried it. I'm so grateful that I can do some of the things I want

to do in life. That's nice to have people offer you things. That was not always the case."

How long did it take Ms. LaBelle to get to the point where she was sought after to endorse and place her name on products? "It seems like the older I got more things started to happen for me. I'm 52 now and it seems like at 40, doors started to open for me. Not before that, which

See PATTI LABELLE/page 5

many things for which he was revered. His leadership role in the Montgomery bus boycott, establishing of the Voting Rights Bill, and subsequent outspoken views on America's involvement in the Vietnam war, angered many people. Toward the end of his life, the possible attempt of an assassination often lingered in his mind. Mrs. Kimble lived in Newark's North Ward with her husband and two children when the assassination occurred.

The North Ward, then run by councilman Anthony Imperiali, was virtually untouched by the rioting. Imperiali and his associate, with guns in tow, kept a tight patrol of the area, to assure that their community would remain untouched.

"I remember walking to the store

and seeing the National Guard going into the Armory on Roseville Avenue," she said. "They were moving in the tanks."

Rioting began on the evening that followed King's assassination. The Kimbles felt they should go to the South Ward to be closer to other family members. On the ride across town, they witnessed huge sections of Newark being destroyed. In the midst of anger and helplessness, people began to loot and burn down stores by the dozens.

Many in Newark were killed that evening—shot in retaliation by the National Guard or caught in the crossfire. Ironically, Dr. King spoke at Newark's South Side (now known as Shabazz) High School just eight days before his assassination on that balcony in Memphis, Tennessee. Riots took place in Detroit, Chicago, Philadelphia, Los Angeles and many other major cities, lawlessness and days until minutes and television reporters called for calm. What followed were major clean-ups and hundreds of demolished buildings.

In Newark, many city blocks were left as empty lots until as recently as five to ten years ago. Efforts to rebuild the community have taken time. But Newark is well on its way.

City Calendar

FEBRUARY 12, 26, MARCH 5, 19, APRIL 2

WAYNE—Interactive television (ITV) courses can be taken at William Paterson State College, Hackettstown Heights High School, Westwood High School, or School 22 in Paterson. For more information, call 201-995-2436.

SATURDAYS, FEB. 11 - MAY 10

JERSEY CITY—Jersey City State College will offer a graduation ceremony at the NJ Real Estate Salesperson's (Agent) Licensing Examination on Saturday, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at the JSC campus at 2039 Kennedy Blvd. For further information call 201-200-3089.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

JERSEY CITY—A "Legal Education Program," a series of private consultations with Lynn Gale Esq. will be held 6-7 at the Women's Center, Jersey City State College. For more information, call 201-200-3189.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

MIDDELTOWN—The Central Jersey Trail Friends Club is having a business meeting/special planning session. Free admission. For more information call 908-957-0876 by 210.

ELIZABETH—Union County College's Financial Aid Workshops for the first time on Interactive Television (ITV). For more information, call 908-965-6033.

PLAINFIELD—Union County College's Financial Aid Workshops for the first time on Interactive Television (ITV). For more information, call 908-412-3571.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13

MONMOUTH—The Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders will have a workshop meeting at 10am and 2 pm. For more information call 908-431-7387.

JERSEY CITY—Neomi Wright, Assistant Director of the Jersey City State College Office of Academic Advancement, will speak on "How to Start Your Own Business" on Thursday, February 13, 12-1 pm in the Formal Lounge of the Michael Gilligan Student Building at Jersey City State College. For more information, call 201-200-3189.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

PRINCETON—The Central Jersey Trail Friends Club will have Valentine's Dance fund-raiser at the Hyatt Regency, 1400 N. 1st, and Alexander Rd. The cost is \$15.00. 6:00 pm until 2:00 am. For more information, call (908) 460-2933.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

PLAINFIELD—A Post Valentine Affair Sponsored for the Kimberly Davis Scholarship Fund will be held at the Douglas Hall Temple, 722 St. Mary's Ave. 6:00 pm until 2:00 am. For more information, call Peggy Wilds, (908) 757-0714.

PLAINFIELD—The Black United Fund is having a Black Chiffon Expo. Special invited guests include motivational speaker Les Brown and political Starlet, Fannie Lee. 10:00 for adults. For more information call (908) 789-7975.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

MONMOUTH—The Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders will have a workshop meeting at 2 pm. For more information call (908) 431-7387.

JERSEY CITY—Peter Kulas, resident first vice president of First Investors, will speak on "Your First Investors: How to build a Nest Egg with Only a Few Dollars," 12-1:30 pm in the Formal Lounge at Jersey City State College. For more information, call 201-200-3189.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

SOUTH BRUNSWICK—The Central Jersey Trail Friends Club will have a Chocolate Lover's Dream Party at a member's home. The party will include a Vietnamese table, favored coffees, and delicacies. For more information, call (908) 329-8366 by Feb. 19.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24

JERSEY CITY—A group discussion, "Women Raising Your Self-Esteem," 5:00-6 pm at the Women's Center at Jersey City State College. For more information, call 201-200-3189.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

MONMOUTH—The Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders will have a workshop meeting at 2 pm and a regular meeting at 7 pm. For more information call (908) 431-7387.

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Atara: Valentine's Day Horoscope

By Regina Weed

Venus, the planet of love is a topic of conversation these days. Beneath hearts and love are on everyone's mind as Valentine's Day approaches. This is one of the most important days of the year in terms of analyzing relationships.

When African Americans talk about love, it's usually with a "sour" tone. Women ask, "Why aren't there any good Black men?" While men wonder "Why does a Black woman want me?" Of course, the answer to these questions lies within each individual. However, the root of the problems in African-American relationships stems from the astrological phenomenon of Pisces and the physical phenomenon of slavery.

By understanding the dynamics of Pisces' message, we can understand that our relationships are unusually rocky because of slavery's psychological scars. For example, imagine what would happen to a person, who for years, had been told everyday that he or she would never

be able to marry, or nurture their off-spring.

Then after decades this person is told that the whole thing has been a mistake and they can now form relationships and families. Undoubtedly that person would be a mental mess

and would find it difficult to form bond relationships of any kind. To think that African American men can form healthy relationships in such a short time, without therapy, is outrageous.

Once we stop denying (a Pisces trait) slavery's impact, we can begin healing. As Piscean people, whose foundation must always be spiritual, realize that we must choose a spiritual mate. In the spirit "I like attracts like." Therefore, look for someone who is Just like you. Let's look at the astrological

message for each sign to give you some idea of what to look for.

Aries: Seek someone who is looking for new things; uses life as an adventure; likes to start things and is not concerned about finishing them.

Taurus:

Seek someone who enjoys the good things money can buy and the five senses (hearing, seeing, touching, smelling, tasting) like fine dining, a good bath/massage, good music and/or good movies or art.

Gemini: Find someone who can feed your mind with good conversation and information and who wants to go to mentally stimulating events.

Cancer: Seek someone to nurture you the way you want to nurture them; who makes you feel safe and secure; who won't criticize or

hurt your feelings. Leo: Find someone who is proud of you and who you can be proud of and someone who wants to be the king or queen at home or in the spotlight.

Virgo: Seek someone who will go to an art film and analyze and critique it with you; who is "messily" organized; who will view your criticisms as constructive and will respond without you having to nag.

Libra: Find someone who likes peace and harmony and just wants to be everybody to get along; who likes fun, understands uncertainty and why it's sometimes impossible to make decisions.

Scorpio: Look for intensity, passion and undying loyalty from someone who can be passionately celibate sometimes; who will merge with you until 'death do us part'.

Sagittarius: You need someone optimistic; who likes the word "possible"; travels mentally and physically; likes big stuff, and big plans even if it doesn't work.

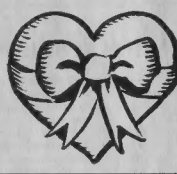
Capricorn: Find someone who understands "workaholics" and commitment; expects the relationship to be hard work, and doesn't expect it to be fun and games.

Aquarius: Seek someone who likes change; who is unconventional and hates boredom and routine.

Pisces: Seek someone you can depend on; who is spiritual, creative, artistic; who understands your emotional ups/downs and your "did I say that?" responses.

During this time of red candies and chocolate kisses, our personal search for love and happiness is important, but the greater message for African Americans is: Stop complaining about our relationships and start finding ways to heal the psychological scars that slavery has inflicted.

Regina Weed is a certified member of the American Federation of Astrologers. She is the author of "Your Love Potentials: Venus and Mars" and "12 Different Men in the Zodiac."



Beauchamp honored for 40 years of quality service

SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NJ—Degussa Corporation, a major supplier of precious metal materials to the electronic and metallurgical industries, honored Leslie "Earl" Beauchamp, a forty-year veteran of the company who began his career as a scaler of silver powders in February, 1957. Recognized by colleagues as a great friend and a true professional who always does his best for the company and fellow co-workers, Beauchamp was the recipient of several awards, including a luncheon held in his honor at Café Pianetto, South Plainfield, NJ.

The Executive Vice President of Degussa's Metal Group, John W. Eschenlohr, presented the awards, including a gold bar, an extra week of vacation and a bonus.

Right John Eschenlohr, executive vice president with Earl Beauchamp



Right John Eschenlohr, executive vice president with Earl Beauchamp

ter Souja will be giving a keynote address at Middlesex County College's Panethnic Arts Center, 155 Mill Rd. For more information, call Patrick Mathias, (908) 906-2566.

NEW YORK—Author Patricia Reid-Merritt (Sister Fogue, How Phenomenal Black Women Are Rising to the Top) will lecture 12:30 pm at the Rockefeller Barnes & Noble For more information, call 212-765-0592.

NEWARK—Dr. Lenworth Gunther will appear on stage in connection with the Black History Month, Mary Burch Theater, Essex County College, 303 University Ave., Sponsored by Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. For more information, call Event Chairman William Oliver, 201-673-3069.

WATCHUNG—Performance, "Shades of the Afrocentric Mind: Also perform on Sat) At the Watchung Arts Center. For more information, call 908-753-0190.

Television program, "Conjure Women," about four African-American women artists. On Ch. 13, 9 pm.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

PLAINFIELD—Black Child Expo will be held at the Black United Fund Community Center (formerly Grant Avenue Community Center). Special invited guests include motivational speaker Les Brown and rapper/political activist Sister Souja. For more information call (908) 757-1111.

PLAINFIELD—Documentary film, "Tuskegee Airman," 2 pm, Plainfield Public Library, On the A&E Network. For more information, call 908-757-1111.

NEWARK—Spirit Ensemble, 2 pm at the Newark Museum, Billy Johnson Auditorium, 49 Washington St. For more information, call (201) 596-6355.

Television program, "Cinema Thirteen: Guelwaar," 9 pm on Ch. 13.

Television program, "Cinema Thirteen: Camp de Thiaroye," 10:55 pm on Ch. 13.

SOMERSET—"Spiritual Release Gathering" Sponsored by the Soul Brother Production Company. For more information, call 908-422-1753.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

NEW YORK—The American Place Theatre begins its 1997 season with "Stone Wall's House," a new play produced by Norman Lear, directed by Jamie Richards, and starring Lisa Louise Langford. The play will begin performances on Feb. 5, with its opening night this evening at 7 pm. The Theatre is located at 111 W. 46th St. For more information, call the Box

Office at (212) 840-5074.

ENGLEWOOD—Ladyfingers Black Manicure parlors at John Harris Theater, 30 N. Van Buren St., 3 pm For tickets, call (201) 597-3600.

NEWARK—Concert, "An Evening With The Shrimles," 1 and 3 pm at the Newark Museum, Billy Johnson Auditorium, 49 Washington St. For more information, call (201) 596-6550. For TV cable, (201) 596-6355.

PLAINFIELD—Jubilant Choir of Irvington will perform at Cross of Life Church, 1240 East Seventh St. For more information, call Rev. Carol A. Lindsay (908) 756-6788.

Television program, "Cinema Thirteen Special: Yabba" at 2 pm on Ch. 13.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

EDISON—"Glory," a motion picture about the all-black Civil War regiment, the Massachusetts 54th, will be shown 12 noon, 3 and 6 pm at the Middlesex County College Theater Center, 155 Mill Rd. It stars Morgan Freeman and Denzel Washington, who with this performance, became only the first African-American to win a major Academy Award. For more information, call Patrick Mathias, (908) 906-2566.

Television program, "Biography: Thurgood Marshall," Documentary, On the A&E Network.

JERSEY CITY—A program on "African-American Freedom Fighters," 10:00 am at Jersey City State College, 2039 Kennedy Blvd. For more information, call 201-200-3524.

WAYNE—"Our Young Black Men Are Dying and Nobody Seems to Care" 7 pm at William Paterson College. For more information, call 201-995-3100.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

EDISON—Lecture and demonstration, "The History of Stepping," featuring the Hazzards Steppers and the Flame 10 Drill Team. 12 noon, at Middlesex County College, Caledonia C. College Center, 155 Mill Rd. For more information, call Patrick Mathias, (908) 906-2566.

Television programs, "Sermons and Sacred Pictures and the Last Brezze of Summer," will air on OVDSS (formerly the Faith & Values Channel) 10 pm, and will repeat at 11 pm. These programs document the life of the Rev. J.O. Taylor, a Baptist minister and filmmaker in the 1930s and 1940s. The Last Brezze of Summer is about a young girl coming of age amidst the prejudice of the 1950s.

JERSEY CITY—Theodore Brunson, curator of the Afro-American Historical and Cultural Museum in Jersey City, will speak on "Slavery in Hudson County," 10 pm at Jersey City State College, 2039 Kennedy Blvd. For more information, call 201-200-3524.

Iam Patterson College. For more information, call 201-995-3100.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21

NEW BRUNSWICK—Malcom X Poetry Celebration featuring Abiodun Osoye of the Last Poets, 6 pm Middlesex County College Center, 319 George St. For more information, call Patrick Mathias, (908) 906-2568.

NEW YORK—Author Jane Lazzari (Beyond the Whiteness of Whiteness: Memoir of a White Mother of Black Sons) will lecture 12:30 pm at the Rockefeller Barnes & Noble For more information, call 212-765-0592.

Television program, "Spread the Word: The persuasions using A Cappella" 9:30 pm on Ch. 13.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

NEWARK—"Film, Two Dollars and a Dream" by Stanley Newson, about the life of Madame C. J. Walker, first African-American millionaire. Part of The February Film Series at the Newark Museum, Billy Johnson Auditorium, 49 Washington St. For more information, call (201) 596-6550. For TVT calls, (201) 596-6355.

PLAINFIELD—"Using African-American history year-round in the family," by Dr. Jennifer Durham, 2 pm, Plainfield Public Library, 8th Street at Park Ave. For information, call 908-757-1111.

THROUGH FEBRUARY 28

PLAINFIELD—Exhibit of Booker T. Washington Silver Hall Dolls, from the collection of Roland Franklin; Slave dolls by crafts person Shirley Banks in the main lobby, Plainfield Public Library, 8th Street at Park Ave. For more information, call 908-757-1111.

THROUGH MARCH 31

MONTCLAIR—Exhibit in honor of Black History Month at the Israel Canale House. For more information, call 1-800-JERSEY 7.

THROUGH APRIL 25

NEW YORK—Art exhibit, "African-American Pioneers" at the Saagarm Gallery, 375 Park Ave. For more information, call 212-572-7373.

THROUGH FEBRUARY 16

NEW BRUNSWICK—"Play, The Meeting," a fictionalized account of a meeting between Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr. Starring Marcus Taylor and Bill Turner, and Burt Reynolds at the Atrium Theatre, 7 Livingston Ave. For more information, call Broadway Box Office (908) 249-5500.

FEBRUARY 15, 22, MARCH 1, 8, 15, 22

NORTH BRANCH—Sky Show, "Follow the Drinking Gourd," which will teach the importance of the Big Dipper to survey slaves at the Plantation at Raritan Valley Community College, Rte. 28 & Lannington Rd. For more information call (908) 251-4805.

ENGLEWOOD—"Freedom Train," the true story of Harriet Tubman, at the John Harris Theater. For more information, call 1-800-JERSEY 7.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

EDISON—Major Scorpion, Reggae performance 12 noon, Middlesex County College Center, Lounge, 155 Mill Rd. For more information, call Patrick Mathias, (908) 906-2568.

NEW YORK—Premiere of play, "A Huey P. Newton Story," starring Roger Guzman Smith. At the Public Theater, 239 West 4th St. For more information, call 212-238-6200.

NEW YORK—"Shades of Harlem," sponsored by the National Black Touring Circuits. At the Tribeca Performing Arts Center. For more information, call 212-346-8510.

Television program, "State of the Arts," starring the Shirelles 7 pm on NJN.

Television program, "This House of Power" will air on OVDSS (formerly the Faith & Values Channel) at 10 pm, and will repeat at 11 pm. It takes an in-depth look at the history and influence of the African-American church.

City Calendar

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BRIEFS

STEVE BIKO'S KILLERS CONFESS

The killers of Steven Biko came forward and confessed this week to the South Africa Truth and Reconciliation Commission, set up by Nelson Mandela to investigate and heal the wounds and abuses of apartheid. This is new evidence about, previously unsolved crime.

We congratulate South Africa for the humane and forthright way the country is confronting the truth about its past. Another question remains unanswered: did the former white-led apartheid government assassinate Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme in 1986? Palme was a leading proponent of global economic sanctions against apartheid, and helped Sweden funnel over \$400 million to the liberation movement between the mid-1970s and the early 1990s. His murder remains unsolved, but the suspicion of South African involvement remains strong.

ALEXIS HERMAN SINGLED OUT OF CONGRESS

A billion dollars in hard and soft money was spent in last year's elections. So could someone please explain to us why Alexis Herman is being singled out by Congress for harassment? Senators who refused to pass campaign finance reform, an act who won their seats with millions of dollars in special interest "access" money, are now going to look into Ms. Herman's alleged fundraising activities, rather than focus on her qualification to be Secretary of Labor. This is rank hypocrisy, and reminds us of the French Prefect in the movie Casablanca, who is "shocked" to discover gambling in Rick's bar, as he is handed his winnings....

CARIBBEAN LEADERS REACH OUT TO THEIR NEIGHBORS

When Caribbean Community (CARICOM) leaders meet this month for their annual half-yearly summit in Antigua, they will be joined for the first time by the presidents of Haiti and the Dominican Republic reports IPS. The presence of these two leaders at the meeting of the grouping of 13 English-speaking nations and Surinam is linked to fears within the wider Caribbean regarding its future relationship with the European Union under the Lome Convention. The Convention, which has brought the Caribbean significant foreign aid and granted wide market preferences, will have run almost 30 years by the year 2000 and is expected to come to an end then. When first implemented it was viewed as a model for North-South cooperation. It guaranteed the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states billions of dollars in European aid while at the same time giving them duty free access to the EU market for their industrial goods and most of their agricultural exports. The flaw, says the EU, is that these measures have failed to boost the region's economic development. The ACP countries have failed to increase or even maintain their market share in Europe, the EU says. There is still no indication whether there will be a successor agreement, or any form of trade pact at all between the 70 members of the ACP group and the EU. Observers say that after 2000 the EU is likely to be more selective about the Caribbean states with which it will have formal ties. By all indications, it appears that only Cuba will be given priority. CARICOM officials fear that some EU members may use the opportunity of any split to divert resources away from the Caribbean in favor of lesser developed African states.

South Africa Accuses United States Of Bullying

AFRICA—The African National Congress (ANC), the dominant party in South Africa's first post-apartheid government, has accused the United States of "bullyboy" tactics and hypocrisy for threatening Pretoria over its proposed \$650-million-U.S. arms sale to Syria, reports PAN-A. Acting ANC secretary - general Chabane Carolus told a news conference that

the United States was trying to force South Africa into a biased policy in the Middle East by favoring Israel over the Arab states. "We take strong exception to any country acting like a bullyboy in trying to essentially usurp our own foreign policy-making capacity," she said. "The United States itself has contributed in a very biased way in the region and that in itself

creates problems," she added. These remarks echoed recent statements by South African President Nelson Mandela and Deputy President Thabo Mbeki. They said that South Africa would not be dictated to by any country and would make its own decision regarding arms sales. This reaction followed last week's statement by the United States, threatening to cut off

some \$120-million in aid if South Africa went ahead with the proposed deal to sell tank-sighting equipment to Syria. Washington opposes the sale of arms or military technology to countries it considers are involved in international terrorism. Washington considers Syria one of these, although Syria was an ally in the U.S.-led coalition that defeated Iraq in the 1991 Gulf War.

Moseley-Braun sounds the alarm over welfare reform bill

by Brent Watters

U.S. Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun (D-IL) encouraged ministers to help to provide some relief to people who will be affected by the new welfare reform bill which will go into effect this July.

Speaking at Carter Temple CME Church in Chicago, Braun focused her discussion on the Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act, which replaces the AID to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program with the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program.

Before discussing the negative impact the Act will have, Braun insisted that the ministers present take action as the state works to put the finishing touches on the welfare reform package.

Braun said despite all the negative impact the bill will have on welfare

recipients, the Act authorizes the state to administer TANF through contracts to charitable, religious, and private organizations.

"What it means is that institutions like the church, which has traditionally taken on these responsibilities with the use of Sunday donations, are now eligible to qualify for grants from the state. This will be dictated on how Illinois decides to handle this. So I encourage you to be a part of the process," Braun told the ministers.

Braun, who did not support the bill, said it represents a departure from the government's commitment to serve the needs and interest of the people and is a step towards, "the triumph of pessimism."

"It represents some of the worst motivations that we as a people can buy into," said Braun.

She said that the bill was dictated by "myths and images" that have nothing to do with the realities of welfare. Instead it was based on stereotypes of Black women having babies for the

sake of qualifying for assistance; Black men not taking care of their children and poor people, "mainly Black," who take advantage of the system and hard working honest citizens.

"These images have shattered a 61-year commitment to supporting the poor and children," said Braun.

The Senator also stressed a deep concern over how children will be affected by the bill. According to Braun, of the current 22 million welfare recipients, nine million are children and 60 percent are under the age of six.

Braun blasted Republicans who said the bill which they drafted, would make recipients "get out of the wagon" and push the country forward.

"How much pushing do you expect a five-year-old to do?" asked Braun.

The TANF program requires recipients to engage in community service after two months of benefits. After two years of benefits recipients must engage in work as defined by the

state. Required work hours under TANF will rise from 20 hours a week in 1997 to 25 hours a week in 1999. Those with children under the age of six will be able to maintain a 20-hour work week, and two-parent families are required to work at least 35 hours. TANF exempts no one from working except single-parents caring for children under 12 months old.

Braun insisted that extra attention must be focused on those who do not qualify for TANF. They include: Unwed mothers under the age of 18 who do not live in the home of an adult relative or another adult supervised arrangement; unwed mothers without a high school diploma whose youngest child is under 12 weeks old, unless they attend school and persons convicted of a drug related felony.

The congressional budget office has estimated that the Act will reduce federal spending by \$3 billion during 1997 and \$54.1 billion by the year 2002.

Many grounds for appeal

Continued from page 1

stunning her, shortly before the murders.

Fujisaki tried to correct the error by telling jurors later not to assume the call came from Ms. Simpson and not to accept it for the truth of what was said.

In a similar move, he first allowed testimony in admissible in criminal court that Simpson took and flunked a lie detector test, then told jurors not to consider it.

Levenson said, instructing jurors to forget such testimony "is like telling them to forget the big purple elephant in the jury box. It's impossible."

The defense wanted to introduce testimony from Furman that blew open the criminal trial. But Fujisaki accepted the plaintiffs' argument that the defense was calling him only to discredit him—an impermissible reason to call a witness.

"Keeping out the Furman evidence changed the dynamics of the trial," said Levenson. "It was a lot easier to put the LAPD on trial with Furman as the poster boy."

Some of the rulings by Fujisaki during and before trial clearly constituted "gross" legal error, said Peter Arenella, a law professor at the University of California. But he said an appeals court may find them to be "harmless error" because the weight of evidence against Simpson supported the jury's verdict.



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Dance my babies.
Dance.

No work for you.
No fear.

Laugh and shimmy.
From your twirling feet
to the tickled fancy of
the sweet trusting dreams
you keep.

No pain.
No grown-up rain.
Know it not.

Dance long. Dance free.
As you should.
As it should be.

This Is Your Time To Dance.

As the African proverb goes, no tree can flourish without roots. And as AT&T celebrates Black History Month, we continue to support organizations that work on behalf of children, like The Children's Defense Fund and California's Children Now. By giving our children a good foundation, we're helping to give them the freedom to discover and enjoy the rich cultural legacies that strengthen for life.



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EDITORIAL

Simple Justice

When many black people said they were disappointed at the O.J. verdict yet not surprised, it was a sad commentary on the American judicial system. It has nothing to do with race and everything to do with race.

The response had nothing to do with race because the process used to arrive at the verdict was flawed from the beginning. It is now a known fact that black folk were served notice that never again would the judicial system trust a trial by a jury of his peers, with a judge that was impartial and fair. Lack of evidence and inadmissible testimony alone are enough for appeal but as one reporter writes there is a judge who has the nerve to overturn the verdict. We know that this case and its verdict was not based on justice but popularity. Therefore, black people were disappointed because of the miscarriage of justice.

Race became an issue for the fact that once again regardless of O.J.'s ability to fight the justice system—matching lawyer for lawyer and winning with a jury of his peers with a verdict of not guilty based on lack of evidence—the system could not let justice stand.

The civil trial of O.J. Simpson seemed just like a flash back to slavery when the mob was out to lynch a black man. It didn't matter if he was guilty, the mob (meaning the majority of white America) was out to find O.J. guilty no matter what the evidence proved.

I guess what many black people did not witness in this infamous trial was simple justice. Justice that demands proof of guilt rather than mob rule.

Mayor Cooper's African American Month Message

by Mayor Cardell Cooper

Once again East Orange residents join in the national celebration of African-American Heritage Month. Each February, we set aside a month to pay homage to Black Americans and acknowledge the many contributions that have been made to society by people of African descent. As I reflect back over my history, I am thankful for having taken the opportunity to read and learn about the legacy of black people who were instrumental in shaping America as we know it today. However, over the years many have sought to downplay the significance of African-American Heritage Month and in particular, the achievements of black people.

African Americans have come a long way since the arrival of the first slave ships in 1619. Our ancestors survived the horrendous middle passage from Africa, slavery and its accompanying brutality and prevailed through a civil war that divided the country. African Americans have weathered the storm of unspeakable injustices during the past three centuries that deprived and denied black people those rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution and the Declaration of Independence.

Through it all, black people have made an indelible mark on the United States and there is not any area which has not benefited from the hard work, dedication and creativity of people of a darker hue.

Legalized Marijuana use is not the answer

In last November's elections the States of California and Arizona passed referendums legalizing smoked marijuana for medical purposes. Smoked marijuana is rejected as a medicine by the American Medical Association, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, the American Glaucoma Society, the American Academy of Ophthalmology, and the American Cancer Society.

Although marijuana continues to be available for research, over 12,000 scientific studies have been published, and the drug has never been shown to be safe or effective for the treatment

of any condition. Often treatments thought to be useful turn out to be ineffective or dangerous when submitted to a rigorous scientific study. It is important to understand exactly what occurred to prompt voters in Arizona and California to support legalization propositions. Pro-legalization forces saturated the media market in both states with misleading advertising campaigns. For example, in Arizona ads promoted the legalization proposition as a law requiring violent criminals to serve their full sentences and supporting drug prevention and education. In California, TV ads promoted the legalization measure as a law permitting doctors to give dying patients marijuana for their nausea from chemotherapy, increase the appetites of wasting cancer patients and AIDS victims and relieve their pain. But the truth of the matter is that the California proposition allows marijuana to be used by individuals of any age, including children, for all illnesses and without a prescription on the oral recommendation of any doctor.

What is more revealing and disturbing is the fact that the \$1.8 million in tax revenue collected to support the California legalization, \$1.4 million came from out of state. Of these monies, hundreds of thousands of dollars were contributed from the Drug Policy Foundation, a pro-legalization organization. The National Association For the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML), another powerful and well funded legalization lobby has publicly stated that they are using the issue of the effectiveness of medical Marijuana to give marijuana a good name.

Joseph Miele Partnership For a Drug-Free NJ

For Americans: Different verdict, same reaction

By Helen O'Neill
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK—Once again the United States held its breath and waited for a verdict on O.J. Simpson.

And once again, reaction seemed to explode along starkly racial lines: a black verdict and a white verdict, in the public's mind and in the courtroom.

Acquitted 16 months ago by a mostly black jury of murdering ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman, found liable Tuesday by a mostly white jury and ordered to pay \$8.5 million in compensatory damages.

"I knew all along, I've always known, that he did it," former Simpson prosecutor Christopher Darden said Wednesday morning on NBC's "Today" show. "I knew that sooner or later, a jury would also point the finger of guilt at O.J. Simpson."

Anise Aschenbach, one of two white jurors in the criminal trial, said she was "tickled" by the verdict.

"I've always felt like he actually did it. ... But that it wasn't proven beyond a reasonable doubt," she told NBC. "You know that really hard to explain to people sometimes."

A national telephone poll taken by ABC News immediately after the verdict found two-thirds of adults—74 percent of white respondents but only 25 percent of black respondents—agree with the jury's decision.

At Mezzaluna, the Los Angeles restaurant where Nicole Brown Simpson ate her last meal and Ronald Goldman worked as a waiter, a sign of "Yes!" and enthusiastic claps followed each finding against the former football star.

"Oh, thank God," said Laurie McCormick, a Brentwood stockbroker. "Now, let's get the (Simpson) kids where they belong." Simpson won a court battle with his ex-wife's parents for custody of his town children. Reaction was bitter at Sylvia's Soul Food Restaurant in New York's 'ghetto' Lord.

He changed a nation's attitude and provoked inspiration for the oppressed and abused throughout the world. "Dr. King lives!"

A chip off the first fine block is now ready to continue on with the struggle. Shocked and disappointed at the immense anti-affirmative action activity that is now going on, Martin Luther King III is stepping up to the battle lines. He has been active in communicating the teachings of civil rights, and has had a brief stint in politics. Some significant lessons have been learned and there is certainly one conclusion that no one can deny. There is a great need for more leadership in the African American community.

The "sound bite" style of many of our "leaders" is of little substance and does not inspire the masses. Only a blessing, Louis Farrakhan can assemble the people and this causes us to remember when we had dozens of such motivators and visionaries.

If our void of leadership is not replenished the status that was held thirty years ago, our gains that have been made through blood, sweat, and tears will be a borrowed event. "Discrimination in this nation has returned to rampant proportions and the laws that are put into place to effect 'Jim Crow' attitudes and practices are now being threatened. My brothers and sisters, this is our 'wake up call'."

Martin Luther King III has now committed himself to total advocacy for affirmative action. He has organized the American Union for Affirmative Action which will be based in Atlanta, GA. The NBCC has pledged unconditional support to this entity and will use its infrastructure of 146 affiliated chapters to fight for affirmative action whenever and wherever it is threatened. We see it as a blessing. The son and namesake of our greatest hero is ready to take on the "dark forces" and we will stand with him.

It is rather sad that many of those

dominantly black Harlem neighborhood.

"It's a disgrace," declared an angry Rudy Battle, a construction contractor from New York.

"No witnesses, and you're charging a man," said Battle, who is black. "No witnesses. This is sick. No witnesses, not even one."

Said bartender Julian Williams, 23, also black: "It's a lack of consistency. He was acquitted for the murder. How can they find him innocent of murder and liable?"

Brad Mitchell, a 44-year-old white man visiting the restaurant from Kingston, North Carolina, said, "I feel like the families deserve some compensation. I don't like the fact it was ever made racial."

But at a Winchell's doughnut shop in predominantly black South Central Los Angeles, James Williams, 73, said the case was about race from the start.

"They tried to break him, but he'll make money somewhere else," said Williams, who is black. "They were determined to get a white jury, that's why they got the black one (juror) off, to make sure that they won."

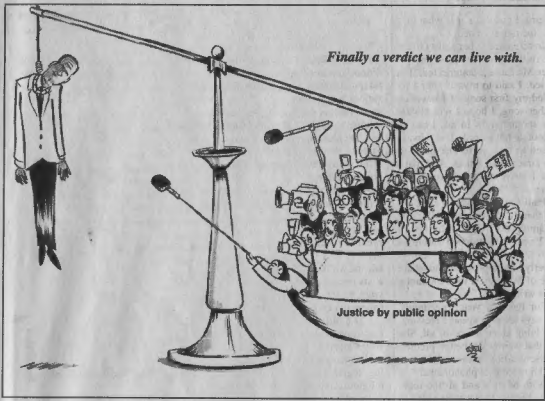
The only black jury was removed last Friday, the fourth day of deliberations, for failing to disclose that her daughter was a secretary in the district attorney's office that prosecuted Simpson's murder trial.

Others wondered where Simpson will find the money to pay the compensation to the families of the victims.

"If the guy got away with it, just let him go. Eight-hundred-five million does not bring Nicole back," said Karla Cabado, a 45-year-old Hispanic woman, at Gold's Gym in southwest Dade County, Florida.

"Let it rest."

Finally a verdict we can live with.



Martin Luther King III - The legacy will continue

Harry C. Alford
President/CEO, National Black Chamber of Commerce

Without a doubt, reservation or long thought process, the greatest leader in the history of African Americans is Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. His devotion to attaining equal rights and freedom for his people rivals that of Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, and even Moses. Unselfish, courageous, and knowing that one day he would have to pay the ultimate—violent death—the stayed loyal to his mission. Not only a great African American, but truly a great American.

Dr. King followed a family tradition of leadership. His father and grandfather were both strong leaders and were the perfect role models for him. That foundation given to him and the significant opportunities that presented themselves clearly indicate that this giant was on a special mission from

our Lord. He changed a nation's attitude and provoked inspiration for the oppressed and abused throughout the world. "Dr. King lives!"

A chip off the first fine block is now ready to continue on with the struggle. Shocked and disappointed at the immense anti-affirmative action activity that is now going on, Martin Luther King III is stepping up to the battle lines. He has been active in communicating the teachings of civil rights, and has had a brief stint in politics. Some significant lessons have been learned and there is certainly one conclusion that no one can deny. There is a great need for more leadership in the African American community. The "sound bite" style of many of our "leaders" is of little substance and does not inspire the masses. Only a blessing, Louis Farrakhan can assemble the people and this causes us to remember when we had dozens of such motivators and visionaries.

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It is rather sad that many of those

who should be supportive have been converted antagonistic. Egos and self-serving agendas have tried to block the rise of our new advocate. Bad press and innuendo have attacked the first family of civil rights, and the purpose is to stop the emulation of MLK Jr. It's like the views of J. Edgar Hoover who so strongly detested the "Black Messiah" have been adopted by those who should share the opposite view.

Cream will always rise to the top and with the blessing of our God, MLK III has stepped forward and is picking up the "gauntlet" to lead the survivors of the greatest holocaust in history to genuine freedom. I have an extremely good feeling about this. Thanks to Clarence Thomas, Wardell Connerly, Pete Wilson, Bob Dole, etc., a giant has awakened.

My brothers and sisters, get on board! The train to freedom is coming out of mothballs and is being refueled. It's time to fight the system again.

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Serving the African American community for 13 years

100 HUNDRED BLACK MEN TO HONOR SEVEN FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

Seven individuals will be honored at the inaugural event of the 100 Black Men of New Jersey's First Annual Community Service Awards Dinner Thursday, February 27, at 6:00 p.m. at the Sheraton Meadowlands. Alfred C. Koeppe, senior vice president, Corporate Services & External Affairs for PSE&G and Theodore V. Wells, Jr., Esq., will co-chair the gala.

Individuals honored are: Shirley DelBorio, Larry Hazzard, Rev. Reginald Jackson, Richard Liebler, William McCoy, Congressman Donald Payne and Mark Solomon.

For ticket information, call 201-678-6522.

Patti LaBelle

Continued from page 1

is weird. I guess it's true that they say, "the older the better."

In reference to her ability to endure in the music business and get better, Ms. LaBelle commented, "I'm blessed. I said to myself after I recorded my first song, 'If I never do another song, I hope I will always have another show in me. I can do without a hit record. I've always wanted to be a performer more than a recording artist. And that's what I strive to be—a good performer."

Patti LaBelle loves to cook but says that she doesn't eat it all trying to maintain her weight. In the last 10 to 12 years she stopped eating as much and started cooking things properly. Patti promised to share some of her secrets in a cookbook she is writing.

For the fifty-year something, Patti says your age is a blessing. Story lying about it first of all. She says that women get better, prettier, more sensual and sexier and she says "this knowledge is phenomenal."

With Macy's and all the retail chains going to get their share of the Valentine Day market, Ms. LaBelle's advice is "Tell the ones you really love that you love them. Don't say it with flowers, say it with words. Some times we have a tendency to hold back but you need to put your hands on that person, give them a hug and tell them you love them. It will make them and you feel much better."

continued from page 1

MOMSAD

to lean on. To that end, she started MOMSAD. "I read the papers everyday and went to funerals and was in the funeral home in Newark," she said. "I would go to parents and invite them to be in the group."

Soon parents started to call, and MOMSAD started taking form. It has been a slow process over the past two years, but it is bearing fruit, gaining the attention of some local politicians, such as Judith Favors, the Central Ward District's 18th District Leader in Newark, and East Orange Councilwoman Mary Patterson. Ms. Favors in fact asked Ms. MonCreif to speak at a community program for Black History Month at the 15th Ave. School in Newark, hopefully giving it more momentum.

Through MOMSAD, Ms. MonCreif was able to identify a problem stemming from the Violent Crimes Compensation Board. According to Sharon Koch of the Board, although they are funded by tax dollars, and should be accessible to all taxpayers, applications will be denied if there is a death stemming from the involvement of criminal activity. "We cannot do it," she said. "The only thing I could suggest (to the families) is their church or some hospital programs."

This doesn't sit well with Ms. MonCreif. "I went to see a woman the other day who's son was recently killed," she said. "The Compensation Board refused to give her counseling because they said (the murder) was drug-related. How did they know this when they haven't arrested anyone yet?"

She continues, "We should show our kids in a good light, unlike the bad one the police and media always say they're in. It isn't unfair to a parent because it is like they were victimized twice. This lady is very upset, and I told her we will write a letter to the Board about this."

The candlelight vigils in front of City Hall in East Orange are still being held every December 23. Last year, over 100 people turned out. In April, during Violent Crime Week, there will be a walk-a-thon calling attention to the situation. "We will try to bring awareness to what is going on," Ms. MonCreif said.

by Daryle Lamont Jenkins

NEWARK—Some 200 parents, teachers, and community activists attended a hearing Wednesday on the condition of Newark public schools since the state took control over them. Testimony was heard by the panel of state assemblymen and senators from members of the community, much of it unfavorable.

Most of the anger was directed at Dr. Beverly L. Hall, State District Superintendent for Newark's Public Schools. Dr. Hall was present only to give an opening remark, then left immediately after. To some residents, that illustrated the problem.

Patricia Bradford, Education Committee Chairperson of NAACP's Newark Chapter attacked Dr. Hall for inaction and total disregard for the students in the system. She pointed out how the Office of Public Relations, which originally focused on promoting student and staff achievements, now seem to focus on "writing speeches for Dr. Hall to deliver at community organizations and fraternal activities," a chauffeur funded by tax dollars transporting her to events. When she is asked to attend Newark meetings Bradford says she regularly declines, sending Community Development Specialist Rebecca Doggett in her place. "She should pay for some of those things that she (does) to benefit

New York out of her own pocket," Bradford said. "We pay her \$150,000 a year!"

Bradford also noted how parents have been shut out of involvement with the school system. Previously, parents attended area meetings to elect parent representatives prior to the officers having an election of positions. Today, they have been told they can no longer conduct the meetings, and can only conduct two district-wide meetings annually. They were also denied access to the Parent Resource Centers, whose facilities are now used by staff and administrators.

"We want the Parent Resource Centers so that parents and children can work to achieve levels of func-

tioning mandated by the state," Bradford said. She left the podium, demanding the restoration of Newark's voting rights, calling it an "insult" that the residents are not allowed the right to elect their school board, a sentiment shared and echoed by many attendees.

Patricia Lovelace, PTA president at Lincoln High School concurred with Ms. Bradford, and also expressed concern about a plan for a cutback in school budgets annually. They were also asked to accept a \$54 million budget cutback and extended layoffs," Lovelace said. "That will not give Dr. Hall support from parents or encouragement."

The conditions of the schools

were also on the resident's minds, and many pointed out eating areas infested with roaches, bad or no water, below average learning tools, overcrowded classrooms, leaky roofs, and unsafe streets children have to travel to and from school. Alice West, a parent with a child at Alexander School, spoke of a new reading plan that she said crammed a lot of information into very little time, not allowing children to digest it, resulting in low test scores. "You wanted (the School Core Teams) to gain a certain percentage with this reading series," she said. "How can it be when it's failing them all along?" West became very angry when Sen. John Ewing

See Newark school take over page 10

Community gathers to help youth Say 'YES' to their future

NEWARK—Students, administrators, teachers, corporate and professional people, community organizations and more will join in a public show of support for youth in public schools to say "YES" to their future.

"We must complete the equation," said Dr. Henry C. Johnson, publisher of YES Magazine, City News and Minority Business Journal. "We can provide all the programs, text books, scholarships etc. however, if the student does not take advantage of the opportunities, all is for naught." The event is scheduled for February 20, 1997 at Malcolm X Shabazz in Newark and will be the official kickoff for a statewide program to encourage youth to get involved with their education and community.

YES Magazine, a national youth magazine, will launch SAY "YES" to your Future™ New Jersey This event will serve as a "call to action," bringing together corporate, educational, religious, civic, and government leaders to address the increasing sense of hopelessness and despair felt by many teens across New Jersey.

This statewide initiative is designed to increase teenage academic achievement. Say "YES" to your Fu-

ture™ New Jersey will provide a jump start for a statewide urban youth movement, focusing on increasing self-esteem, positive attitude, self-develop-



ture, empowerment, and hope for the future.

"Say "YES" to your Future™ New Jersey was designed to help young

people understand their responsibility for their own education," says Dr. Johnson. "We believe that students must find their own reasons to excel, motivated by a force from within.

We also want to recognize them for the positive things that they do, since all too often they are known for the negative images created by a few. Say "YES" to your Future™ New Jersey is the type of program that is needed in more of our communities, to provide youth with positive reinforcement for reaching goals." YES Magazine is currently used by schools and youth organizations in over 38 U.S. states, Puerto Rico, Canada, and Ghana. Designed for teens aged 9-17, this monthly publication provides positive information on urban youth activity, recognizing young leaders for contributions to their communities. Say "YES" to your Future™ New Jersey receives support from New Jersey-based corporations such as AT&T, Bell Atlantic, PSE&G, First Union, Hoechst Celanese, GPU, and CoreStates. For more information on this event, please contact John Rudick, YES Magazine, at 908-754-4466.

Black United Center hosts teen culture night

PLAINFIELD—Friday, January 31st the Black United Center hosted it's first Teen Culture Night. The event was sponsored by the WLII 1190 A.M. radio station, and hosted by Mr. Adrian Council. The turnout was generous, and ranged from the more adult crowd to the younger generation. The evening included poetry, music, dancing, and food. The music was a blend of hip-hop, disco, funk, reggae, r&b, and rap.

The evening began with an absorbing ice breaker that involved everyone. Members of the audience were given a number and asked to pair up with someone else with the same number as theirs. Next, they were to discuss with their partner how far they would go for money. This led into a group discussion involving morals and values. When asked, "Would you kiss someone of the same sex for one million dollars," one young man replied, "no, because it's nasty." When asked the same question, a young woman replied, "Yes, because I can

buy a new reputation with my money."

Following the discussion was an open buffet. Following the meal, the main attraction, Jessica Cearle and "Styx" took the stage. Moore, a distinguished poet and a five time Amateur Night winner at the Apollo, captured the attention of the audience and mesmerized them by her invigorating lyrics. She was lively and well prepared, addressing current issues affecting the African American community. She also incorporated urban funk as her partner "Styx" played behind her on the drums.

The evening did get off to a slow start, but was surely an awe inspiring event for all who stayed around to the end and participated in the program. One young participant said that like this before. He went on to say that he was pleased that he could be a part of such an event since hearing Ms. Moore speak heightened his sensitivity towards women and the African American community as a whole.

EC monies divided up

NEWARK—Enterprise Community monies are coming to Newark, and politicians are asking for community input with a series of meetings over the next few weeks.

The first meetings were at the Friendly Field Neighborhood Center last Tuesday and at Zion Baptist Church on Wednesday.

Newark was designated as an Enterprise Community after the Empowerment Zone Designation was denied. The city hopes to use those \$2.9 million in funds to build 200 units of affordable housing, establish a community school, hire more police officers, and create new jobs. "We are holding these forums to let citizens see how the city plans to use the Enterprise Community funds in their neighborhood, and to find out if our plans are in alignment with the needs of the citizens," Mayor Sharpe James said.

The Empowerment Zone designation, of which six were given around the country, would have brought \$100 million to the city. According to Dan Shulgasser, who spoke at the Zion Baptist Church meeting, the decision to turn down Newark was based in politics. Shulgasser said the problem stemmed from Newark being between New York and Philadelphia.

"In New York we have Congressman (Charles) Rangel, who was re-

sponsible for drafting the empowerment zone legislation," Shulgasser said. "How could they deny New York? And then, Senator Bill Bradley, who said all along he would really be Newark's #1 advocate, bolted on the provision in the legislation that said out of the six (designations), one had to be a partnership between connecting cities."

There were only three areas in the country that would qualify, and one of them, as Congressman Rangel and Senator Bradley knew, was the Camden/Philadelphia area, so Bradley endorsed them," Shulgasser said.

The Enterprise Community funding is \$97 million short of the original empowerment plan, but money will still arrive for Newark. The EC budget of \$500,000 for housing projects, constructed by community development corporations has been matched by the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), which committed \$560,000. The city will also receive over \$12 million in community block grant funds, \$3 million in HOME funds, a \$326,000 Emergency shelter Grant, and over \$4 million in Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA).

There are meetings planned for Feb. 13 at Wash Holmes and Feb. 18 at St. Columba Neighborhood Club. For information, call Newark's grants unit at (201)733-8410.

Need a mortgage or refinancing on a low to moderate income? The Mighty Hudson can save you thousands of dollars.

Hudson City Savings Bank has a long standing tradition of concern for the people in the communities it serves, including those with low to moderate incomes. This can now work to your advantage if you apply for your mortgage or refinancing at Hudson City Savings Bank.

The Mighty Hudson, New Jersey's largest savings bank, now offers qualified applicants special low rates. With as little as 10% down, you can borrow to a maximum of \$125,000 to purchase or refinance a 1 to 4 family owner-

occupied dwelling in one of the counties shown in the listing below. Private mortgage insurance (PMI) is required on loans over 80% of our appraised value.

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Bergen	\$42,160	Monmouth	\$36,320
Burlington	33,120	Morris	39,520
Camden	33,120	Ocean	36,320
Essex	39,520	Passaic	42,160
Gloucester	33,120	Somerset	43,680
Hudson	28,240	Union	39,520
Middlesex	43,680	Warren	30,880

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Billboard

TUESDAYS IN FEBRUARY

NEWARK—The New Jersey Tap Ensemble is opening its doors to the public for the entire month of February each Tuesday. They rehearse in the 4th Floor Rehearsal Studio at Newark Symphony Hall. For more information, call 201-481-0537.

THROUGH FEBRUARY 21

UPPER MONTCLAIR—An exhibit of the show by the "Contemporary East Indian Artists" will be on display at Montclair State University, located on the intersection of Valley Road and Normal Ave. For more information, call 201-655-5113.

THROUGH FEBRUARY 23

NEW BRUNSWICK—Play, "The Merchant of Venice," in the New Theater, Douglas Campus Campus. For more information, call 908-932-7511.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

NEW YORK—The Jazz Passengers, featuring Deborah Harry (Blondie) at the Supper Club. For more information, call 718-922-7171.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

ELIZABETH—Theater, "Well Child" by the George Street Playhouse at Union County College Elizabeth Campus. For more information, (908)965-2996.

PLAINFIELD—"Awareness Day" at Multiberger Regional Medical Center, to promote cardiac fitness. For more information, call 908-668-2317.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

MIDDLETOWN—Ballroom dancing at the Tatum Park Red Hill Activity Center. For more information, call 808-842-4000.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

WATCHUNG—The Grace Trio will perform at the Watchung Arts Center. For more information, call 908-756-0190.

UPPER MONTCLAIR—Performance of "The Rose Tattoo" at Montclair State University. For more information, call 201-655-4333.

N.J.N.T.V.—"Should Inmate Pay Their Way?" 10 am.

SHOWTIME-CABLE—Sidney Poller plays Nelson Mandela in "Mandela and De Klerk," an original film at 8 pm.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

N.J.N.T.V.—"Drug Legalization," 7 pm.

PBS-TV—"Thomas Jefferson," produced by Ken Burns, narrated by Ossie Davis. Check local listings for time.

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Exploring African-inspired home interiors



Spencer Christian explores African influence on home interiors

On Sunday, February 16 at 9:00 p.m., *Home & Garden Television (H>V)* will pay tribute to Black History Month with the premiere of "African Design/American Homes."

Hosted by noted "Good Morning America" personality Spencer Christian, the show will explore the influence of African culture and art on American home furnishings and interior design.

The one-hour show will feature tours of homes that provide examples of how African design has been incorporated into American interiors, as well as commentary from experts in the field of African design.

Enter the Crossroads poetry contest

NEW BRUNSWICK—Crossroads Theatre Company and Vagabond Arts and Media are sponsoring a Black History Poetry Writing Contest for poets in grades 6-12, and senior citizens 55 years of age and older (ages will be in separate categories). Poems should be 200 words or less in length, and will be judged on originality, style, and clarity.

First Place winners will receive a family subscription to Crossroads Theatre for up to 3 people for the 1996-97 season, and a \$50 gift certificate to The Wiz. Second Place Winners will receive a \$70 Appetizer subscription to Crossroads 1996-97 season and a gift \$35 certificate for The Wiz. Third Place Winners will receive two tickets to a Crossroads production for the 1996-97 season and gift certificate

valued at \$25.00 for the Wiz. All winners will be invited to participate in a Crossroads theatre company poetry writing workshop and also will have their work published in the "At The Crossroads" spring/summer 1997 newsletter.

The top 20 entries will be displayed at Crossroads Theatre during the annual Genesis festival May 14-18, 1997.

Send entries to: Attn: Ms. Susan Setles, Director of Audience Service Black History Poetry Contest, Crossroads Theatre, 7 Livingston Ave. New Brunswick, NJ 08901. All entries should include your name, address, and category. Students should include your school name, your grade in school and your teacher's name. Entries must be received by February 28, 1997.

The Priory Restaurant

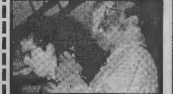
St. Joseph Plaza, 233 W. Market St. Newark, NJ 201-242-8012

The Dud Lite Jazz Series presents IN THE ATRIUM

Budd Light Jazz Series

Bright Moments Sunday Jazz Brunch

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.



Blues Wing with vocalist, Skip Roberts.

Betty DuChanter

Ways to say "I Love You"

Music



Jerry Butler, Otis Redding, and Barbara Lewis, to name a few. Each volume highlights bits from a three-year period, eloquently demonstrating the evolution of the '60s soul sound.

And if that's not enough, the Queen of Soul continues to reign in ARETHA FRANKLIN LOVE SONGS, a 12-track collection of some of her most popular and unforgettable '60s R&B hits like *Baby I Love You*, *(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman*, *I'm In Love*, *Something He Can Feel*, *Call Me*, *Day Dreaming*, and *Crazy He Calls Me*.

Old-school romantics can give their valentine something they can feel with *Smooth Grooves: The '60s Vols. 1-3* and *Aretha Franklin Love Songs*.

Each of these new releases, with a suggested retail list of \$11.98 CD/\$7.98 cassette, will be sold at retail outlets and through Rhinodirect at 1-800-432-0020.

SMOOTH GROOVES: THE '60s boasts three volumes of classic R&B tracks from that musical decade performed by such legendary artists as Jackie Wilson, Etta James,



Treats

CHOCOLATE STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE

Yield: 8 servings

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 3 1/4 cups buttermilk baking mix | 4 teaspoons sugar |
| 1/2 cup unswetened cocoa | 2 cups whipping cream |
| 1/2 cup plus 2 tablespoons sugar | 3 tbsp. confectioners' sugar |
| 1 cup milk | 2 pints fresh strawberries, halved |
| 5 tablespoons butter, melted | 8 whole fresh strawberries |
| 1 egg white, slightly beaten | 8 cups prepared chocolate sauce |

Preheat oven to 400F. Combine baking mix, cocoa, and 1/2 cup plus 2 tablespoons of sugar. Stir in milk and butter until well combined. Drop portions (approximately 1/2 cup each) onto a buttered cookie sheet. Brush lightly with egg white and sprinkle with four teaspoons of sugar. Bake for 16 to 18 minutes. Remove cakes from cookie sheet and cool completely on a wire rack. To serve, whip cream in a chilled bowl, with chilled beaters, until stiff peaks form. Fold in confectioners' sugar. Split each shortcake horizontally in half, spread bottom with whipped cream and strawberries, and place top of shortcake over strawberries. Top with whipped cream and a whole strawberry. Spoon two tablespoons of chocolate sauce over each.

Chocolate Strawberry Shortcake filled with whipped cream is a perfect dessert for Valentine's Day dinner.

Books

Love Poems by Nikki Giovanni
Morrow, \$12, 64 pgs.

Nikki Giovanni is one of America's most outspoken and politically astute poets. Now, she presents a stunning collection of love poems.

Ms. Giovanni's love poems—the revolutionary "Seduction," the whimsical "I Wrote a Good Omelet," and the tender "My House"—are among the most beloved of all her works. Her upcoming *Love Poems*, brings together these and other favorites with over twenty new poems, including the elegiac "All Eyes On U" written for the late rapper, Tupac Shakur. These poems embody the fearless passion and spiritual wit for which Nikki Giovanni is beloved and revered.

In the late 1960s, her popularity soared during the Civil Rights Movement as she became known as a "Poet of the People."

A mother and activist, Giovanni, is a professor of English at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia.



Author, Nikki Giovanni

How to Love a Black Man by Dr. Ronn Elmore
Warner Books \$11.99 (219 pgs.)

Black men base much of their self-esteem on their performance but often hide their deepest dreams and motivations in a private world they often can't—or won't—share with their partners.

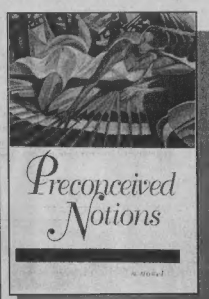
Noted psychotherapist and minister Dr. Ronn Elmore draws on his years of experience to help you develop a mutually satisfying relationship with the Black man in your life—or the one who is on his way.

This "how-to" book shows you ways to "keep things real" by getting him to express his true feelings; compromise lovingly, while sticking to your principles; finish fights; deal with conflicts and share and support his dreams.



Preconceived Notions by Robyn Williams
Noble Press, \$24.95, 307 pgs.

Robyn Williams has produced an insightful novel that candidly probes the potent dynamics of black romance. In her first book, Williams melds explosive passion, eroticism, greed, violence, and pain into an electrifying and climactic entanglement, as she tells the tale of a street and book smart Chicagoan who is majoring in Journalism at Fisk University. As the prima donna of the campus, she flaunts a flashy red BMW and resides in a tastefully outfitted apartment. Her true love, ambitious Tennessee State football star, as she shamefully struggles to conceal a past stained by trauma, suffering, and a dysfunctional family.



Author, Robyn Williams

Budweiser

SALUTES BLACK HISTORY MONTH 1997



WITH THE GREAT KINGS & QUEENS OF AFRICA PORTRAITS

Budweiser proudly salutes Black History Month 1997 with a special program celebrating the spirit and tradition of African culture. For more than two decades, Budweiser's Great Kings & Queens of Africa program has helped to cultivate a deeper appreciation to the impact African leaders have had on our world.

This remarkable program features a series of specially-commissioned portraits—each the work of a gifted African-American artist—honoring the accomplishments of great leaders throughout history. Today, these 29 portraits have become one of the most influential collections of art honoring African-American culture. Budweiser's Great Kings & Queens of Africa program has touched the lives of millions—through a traveling exhibit which has educated and inspired audiences in cities across America.

Budweiser is proud to support this unique program—in the hope that these powerful portraits will encourage all who see them to make their own mark on the future.



Now you can bring the rich heritage of the great Kings & Queens of Africa series to your home or business. Order the complete set of 29 prints at \$21.50 or an update set of the 6 most recent prints (\$24.29) at \$10.00.

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Cross of Life observes Black History Month

PLAINFIELD—Sundays are special during February at Cross of Life Lutheran Church, 1240 East Seventh Street, Plainfield. The congregation invites the Plainfield community to join in observing Black History Month with a series of special events featuring special speakers and musical and performing groups at the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

February 16's theme will be multiculturalism, as the church welcomes the Jubilate Choir of Irvington, who will perform a variety of music rooted in Africa and the Caribbean. This ecclesiastical choir consists of young African, Latino and African American women between the ages of 11 and 16 years old.

John Miller, who is finishing the Upsala-Wagner Chaplaincy Program at Wagner College, Staten Island, will preach and lead the service that day. He will be accompanied by Melanie Morris and Ismael Correa, fellow students in this program that trains women and people of color who are seeking ordination in the Lutheran church.

February 23's gospel theme will be preached by the Rev. Margaret Herz-Lane, who has been pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, Camden, New Jersey for the past 15 years.

Special music will be presented by Clinton and Ruth Simpson of Maplewood, New Jersey, a husband and wife singing team who have traveled and sung extensively in the tri-state area and beyond.

On February 23 at 1:00 p.m., Cross of Life will present a Soul Food Luncheon Tickets will cost \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children 12 and under. Spaces are limited, and reservations must be made by calling the church office at 755-6788 by February 16. At 3:00 p.m. on that day the Plainfield High School Gospel Choir will entertain the luncheon guests.

ASBURY PARK—St. Stephen AME Zion Church recognized various individuals and organization at the Fifth Annual Youth Council Commemorative Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Black History Observance.

Rev. Cedric Miller, senior pastor of the Living Word Christian Fellowship, Neptune, was recognized for founding the racially and culturally diverse congregation, that has grown from eight members in 1987 to currently 110 members, and is ministering to every segment of the community, including an AIDS and substance abuse ministry.

Rev. Elmer Ray Jackson, a former US Marine jet pilot, was recognized

for his leadership in transforming a condemned tavern in a troubled community in Red Bank into the Count Basic Learning Center, a place to help the youths' dreams become realities.

Smith Barney, Inc., received the Martin Luther King Jr. Distinguished Service Award for its employees mentoring at-risk children, building a playground at the Bangs Avenue Elementary School, donating a new 15-passenger van to the Westside Community Center, donating 1,500 books to the schools, and completing several other community projects.

The Monmouth AIDS Interfaith Network was recognized as a coalition of religious communities taking

a proactive approach to providing resources and education for HIV/AIDS needs in Monmouth County.

The Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey was recognized for establishing a primary and preventive health care center in Asbury Park which is currently open 48 hours a week. The U.S. Public Health Service designated it a Federally Qualified Health Center as it serves a medically underserved area.

Charles and Alexis Harris, Asbury Park, were recognized for founding Project Hope Mission in 1988 for youths five to five to eighteen years old. It provides physical, mental and spiritual training youngsters need to

counteract the dysfunctional environment in which they live. Both have full time jobs, but coordinate this program as an outreach of the Long Branch Covenant Church.

Jeffrey and Felicia Bowen, received the Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award for feeding the homeless. With the help of volunteers and merchants, and using the church building, they fed 300 people a Thanksgiving dinner. On Christmas morning, they served dinner to 250 people.

Educator Joe Louis Clark, the famed "twelvetwelve" principal, was the guest speaker for the Youth Council observance. Keith Tucker and Tylette Miller are president and vice president, respectively, of the St. Stephen AME Zion Youth Council, and Rev. Derinzer Johnson is pastor.



Mrs. Alice Johnson, Youth Council advisor and Rev. Cedric Miller

Deacon Hargrave praised at his homegoing service

By Avery Grant

ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS—Deacon William G. Hargrave received well deserved praise at his funeral services in Saint Paul Baptist Church. "Deak" as he was known, died January 2, 1997, at the age 92, and had served as deacon, Sunday School superintendent, and in other capacities in churches in New Jersey, New York, North Carolina and South Carolina, and had "touched" people all along

the eastern states.

The homegoing services were very extraordinary, because fourteen clergy from as far south as South Carolina and as far north as Connecticut came to praise and eulogize him. Evangelist Mildred Spencer, Hartford Connecticut, remarked, "I first met him in the 1940's, and I am here because somebody prayed for me, and I was under the tutelage of Deacon Hargrave, he prayed for me. He was a faithful and dedicated servant for the Lord."

Bishop David Adams, Christian Fellowship Church of God, Gastonia, N.C., in his eulogy said, "I thank God for being able to work with him for over 40 years in the church. Everything you heard about Deak is true, and half ain't been told yet. He worked everything, and he was in no number of churches, he came to all churches, everywhere, because he was working for Jesus."

The standing room only congregation laughed when reference was made to Deacon Hargrave's love of driving. Bishop E. C. Smith, Christian Fellowship Church of God, Gaffney, S.C., "I remember two years ago, when he was 90, he drove down to Shelby, North Carolina to our church conference. He was a man of love, and a great apostle for God." It was said that his greatest personal loss was when his driving license was finally taken from him.

The service was a real celebration with music and songs of the gospel. The audience spontaneously joined Elder Shirley Roberts, Mount Olive Holy Temple, Summit, N.J., as she started to sing "I've Got a Feeling that Everything's Gonna Be all right. She said he was everywhere, and he was an humble man whose work speaks for him. He counseled ministers and he trained deacons.

He was born on March 12, 1904 in Lexington, N.C. He was ordained as a Deacon at the Righteous Church of God under the leadership of Bishop J. W. Williford. In 1954, Deacon Hargrave was ordained as General Superintendent of Sunday School of Christian Fellowship of God in Gastonia, N.C., and later he was elevated to the position of General Deacon, which he held until he died. He was also an associate member of St. Paul Pentecostal Church, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Mount Olive Holy Temple, Summit, N.J., and Mount Zion House of Prayer, Red Bank, N.J. During the past few years, Deacon Hargrave worshipped at St. Paul Baptist Church, Atlantic Highlands.

Deacon Hargrave was a construction worker and a chauffeur. In his later years, he worked as custodian at ICC Headstart, Neptune, from 1972 to 1989. At age 90, he worked as a crossing guard for the Middletown Township Board of Education.

Surviving are his wife of 67 years, Irene Hargrave, Middletown; four daughters, Eunice Hargrave-Harris, Atlantic Highlands; Barbara Cosby, Lincoln; Helen Hargrave-Alberts, Long Branch; and Irene Hargrave-Holloway, Washington, D.C.; two sons, Bruce Hargrave, Long Branch and James Hargrave, Newark; two sons-in-law, Almoses Harris and Henry Cosby; one sister, Sadie Sims, East Orange; one sister-in-law, Elaine Bell, Selma, N.C.; ten grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. He was predeceased by three of his children, Dorothy, Catherine and Raymond Hargrave. Rev. Dr. Henry P. Davis, Jr. is pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church, Atlantic Highlands.

Who are the 100 Most Influential in New Jersey?

- Individuals who contribute significantly to the progress of black people in the state of New Jersey
- Individuals who use their success to uplift the black communities of New Jersey
- Individuals who use their positions to promote good corporate citizenship
- Individuals who selflessly do extraordinary community service
- Individuals who not only understand the critical importance of rebuilding New Jersey's urban communities, but also commit significant time and resources to urban revitalization

May 1, 1997

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FREEHOLD:

100 Main Street

HILLSIDE: 100 Main Street

IRVINGTON: 100 Main Street

LONG BRANCH: 100 Main Street

LIVINGSTON: 100 Main Street

SPRINGFIELD: 100 Main Street

SPRINGFIELD: 100 Main Street

MADISON:

100 Main Street

MILLBURN: 100 Main Street

NAVESINK: 100 Main Street

PLAINFIELD: 100 Main Street

SHORT HILLS: 100 Main Street

SPRINGFIELD: 100 Main Street

SPRINGFIELD: 100 Main Street

SPRINGFIELD:

100 Main Street

SPRING LAKE HEIGHTS: 100 Main Street

TOMS RIVER: 100 Main Street

UNION: 100 Main Street

UNION: 100 Main Street

UNION: 100 Main Street

UNION: 100 Main Street

City News Religious Directory

Trinity and St. Phillips Cathedral

Church Services:
Weekdays -
12:10 p.m.
Sun. 8 & 10 a.m.

24 Rector St.,
Newark, NJ
07102

201-622-3505

Imani Baptist Church

Church Services:
Sun. 11:00 a.m.

428 Central Ave.,
East Orange, NJ
07076-7222

Rev. Moses Alexander
Knott, Jr.

Tabernacle Baptist Church

Church Services:
Sun. 10 a.m. -
1 p.m.

925 Riddgewood
Ave., North
Brunswick, NJ
08902

908-545-4063

Faith Tabernacle Church

Church Services:
Weekdays -
Fri. 7:30 p.m.
Sun. 10:45 a.m. &
6:00 p.m.

1037 Frank Street,
Roselle NJ 07068

201-622-3505

Abundant Life Family Worship Center

Church Services:
Sun. 8 - 11 a.m.

46 Hampton St.,
Metuchen, NJ
08840

908-545-3897

Rev. Ronald L. Owens

Be a part of the

City News

Religious Directory...

Call 908-754-3400

for more information

Black Wallstreet: A Lost Dream

The following story was e-mailed to City News from Darius F. Brown. We believe the story is significant enough to run in hopes that it will motivate black folk to return to the determination and perseverance that is part of our ancestry.

Brown writes that this story was excerpted from "Black Elegance Magazine" (issue unknown) title: Black Wallstreet: A Lost Dream, chronicles a little known chapter of African-American history in Oklahoma as told to Ronald E. Childs and co-authored by Ron Wallace.

If anyone truly believes that the last April attack on the federal building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma was the most tragic bombing ever to take place on United States soil, as the media has been widely

reporting, they're wrong-plain and simple. That's because an even deadlier bomb occurred in that same state nearly 75 years ago. Many people in high places would like to forget that it ever happened.

Searching under the heading of "riots," "Oklahoma" and "Tulsa" in current editions of the World Book Encyclopedia, there is conspicuously no mention that Tulsa, once the Tulsa race riot of 1921, and this omission is by no means a surprise, or a rare case. The fact is, one would also be hard-pressed to find documentation of the incident, let alone accurate accounting of it in any other "scholarly" reference or American history book.

That's precisely the point that noted author, publisher and editor Ron Wallace, a Tulsa native, sought to make nearly five years ago when he began researching this riot, one of the most incidents of violence ever visited upon people of African descent. Ultimately joined on the project by Jay Wilson of Los Angeles, the duo found and compiled indisputable evidence of what they now describe as "a Black Holocaust in America."

The date was June 1, 1921, when "Black Wallstreet," the name fittingly given to one of the most affluent all-black communities in America, was bombed from the air and burned to the ground by mobs of envious whites.

In a period spanning fewer than 12 hours, a once thriving 36-block business district in northern Tulsa lay smoldering—a model community destroyed, and a major African-American economic movement resoundingly defused.

The night's carnage left some 3,000 African Americans dead, and over 600 successful businesses lost. Among these were 21 churches, 12 restaurants, 30 grocery stores and two movie theaters, plus a hospital, a bank, a post office, libraries, schools, law offices, a half dozen private airplanes and even a bus system. As airplanes have been expected the impetus behind it all was the infamous Ku Klux Klan, working in concert with city officials, and many other sympathizers.

In their self-published book, *Black Wallstreet: A Lost Dream*, and its companion video documentary, *Black Wallstreet: A Black Holocaust in America*, the authors have chronicled for the very first time in the words of area historians and elderly survivors what really happened there on that

pawny shops everywhere, brothels, jewelry stores, 21 churches, 12 restaurants and two movie theaters. It was a time when the entire state of Oklahoma had only two airports, yet six blacks owned their own planes. It was a very fascinating community. The area encompassed over 600 busi-



fateful summer day in 1921 and why it happened. Wallace similarly explained why this bloody event from the turn of the century seems to have had a recurring effect that is being felt in predominantly black neighborhoods even to this day.

The best description of Black Wallstreet, or little Africa as it was also known, would be likened it to a mini-Beverly Hills. It was the golden door of the black community during the early 1900s, and it proved that African Americans had successful infrastructure. That's what Black Wall Street was all about.

The dollar circulated 36 to 100 times, sometimes taking a year for currency to leave the community. Now in 1995, a dollar leaves the black community in 15-minutes. As far as resources, there were Ph.D.'s residing in little Africa, black attorneys and doctors. One doctor was Dr. Berry who owned the bus system. His average income was \$500 a Day, a hefty pocket change in 1910.

During that era, physicians owned medical schools. There were also

nesses and 36 square blocks with a population of 15,000 African Americans. And when the lower-income Europeans looked over and saw what the black community created, many of them were jealous. When the average student went to school on black Wallstreet, he wore a suit and tie because of the morals and respect they were taught at a young age.

The mainstay of the community was to educate every child. Nepotism was the one word they believed in. And that's what we need to get back to in 1995. The main thoroughfare was Greenwood Avenue, and it was intersected by Archer and Pine Streets. From the first letters in each of those three names, you get G.A.P., and that's where the renowned R&B music group the Gap Band got its name. They're from Tulsa.

Black Wallstreet was a prime example of the typical Black community in America that did business, but it was in an unusual location. You see, at the time, Oklahoma was set aside to be a black and Indian state. There were over 28 black townships

there. One third of the people who traveled in the terrifying "trail of tears" along side The Indians between 1830 to 1842 were black people.

The citizens of this proposed Indian and Black state chose a black governor, a treasurer from Kansas named McCade. But the Ku Klux Klan said that if he assumed office that they would kill him within 48 hours. A lot of blacks owned farmland, and many of them had gone into the oil business. The community was so tight and wealthy because they traded dollars hand-to-hand, and because they were dependent upon one another as a result of intermarriage with Indians and with that came whatever oil was later found on the properties.

Just to show you how wealthy a lot of black people were, there was a banker in the neighboring town who had a wife named California Taylor. Her father owned the largest cotton gin west of the Mississippi [river]. When California shopped, she would take a cruise to Paris every three months to have her clothes made.

There was also a man named Mason in nearby Wagner county who had the largest potato farm west of the Mississippi. When he harvested, he would fill 100 boxcars a day. Another brother not far away had a black thing with asparagus farm. The typical family then was five children or more, though the typical farm family would have 10 kids or more who made up the nucleus of the labor. On Black Wallstreet, a lot of global business was conducted. The community flourished from the early 1900s until June 1, 1921. That's when the largest massacre of non-military Americans in the history of this country took place, and it was led by the Ku Klux Klan. Imagine walking out of your front door and seeing 1,500 homes being burned.

Survivors we interviewed think that the whole thing was planned because during the time that all of this was going on, white families with their children stood around the borders of their community and watched the massacre, the looting and every-

thing—much in the same manner they would watch a lynching.

In my lectures I ask people if they understand where the word "picnic" comes from. It was typical to have a picnic on a Friday evening in Oklahoma. The word was short for "pick a nigger" to lynch. They would lynch a black male and cut off body parts as souvenirs. This went on every weekend in this country, and it was all across the country. That's where the term really came from.

The riots weren't caused by anything black or white. It was caused by jealousy. A lot of white folks had come back from World War I and they were poor. When they looked over into the black communities and realized that black men who fought in the war had come home heroes that helped trigger the destruction.

It cost the black community everything, and not a single dime of restitution—no insurance claims—has been awarded the victims to this day. Nonetheless, they rebuilt. We estimate that 1,500 to 3,000 people were killed and we know that a lot of them were buried in mass graves all around the city. Some were thrown into the river. As a matter of fact, at 21st Street and Yale Avenue, where there now stands a parking lot, that corner used to be a coal mine. They threw a lot of the bodies into the shafts.

Black Americans don't know about this story because we don't apply the word Holocaust to our struggle. Jewish people use the word Holocaust all the time. White people use the word Holocaust. It's politically correct to use it. But when black folks use the word, people think we're being cry babies or that we're trying to bring up old issues. No one comes to our support.

In 1910, our forefathers and mothers owned 13 million acres of land at the height of racism in this country, so the Black Wall Street book and videotape prove to the naysayers and revisionists that we had our act together. Our mandate now is to begin to teach our children about our own, ongoing Black Holocaust. They have to know when they look at our communities today that we don't come from this.

Newark school take over

continued from page 1

seemed not to pay attention to her as she spoke. She received applause as she berated the startled senator. "You sit there and look through me, she said. "You don't look at me, you don't talk to me, you look through me as if I don't exist!"

Tracy Luszcz of the New Jersey Freedom Organization, was also appalled when she met the senator. She said that the takeover came about at the same time partly in funding for poorer schools was to go into effect. "As soon as the money came in, (the state) was like, 'Oh no, it's corrupt!'" she said. "It was because (the Newark School System is predominantly) black, because they would never do it in Princeton... where it was all white people."

Joseph Del Grosso, president of the Newark Teachers Union, said that he had to file a complaint with the Federal Department of Education concerning discrimination against handicapped children, after meeting from Dr. Hall and her administration. The complaint was eventually sustained and Dr. Hall had to enter into an agreement with the Division of Civil Rights to correct the situation. He added that Dr. Hall is in a "state of denial" about the conditions of the schools. "As a matter of fact," he said, "Hall claims that parents who sue against her are not legitimate parents. That term raises some interesting questions...I would like to know what Hall considers 'legitimate.'"

Not all comments were unfavorable. Some, like parent Barry Hill, said that the staff at Chancellor Ave. School has been very involved and helpful. He is involved to the point of even being a Cub Scout master, and when there was a problem with his child and a teacher, the administration was there to help. "I am very pleased with what I see so far," he said.

Donald Mann, chairman of the Prudential Foundation, also spoke highly of what he saw as improvements to the school system. He said Dr. Hall was responsible for rallying the corporate community for additional resources, in which Prudential gave a \$1 million "challenge grant" to create the Newark Fund for Excellence, providing seed money for innovative programs that promote high student achievement and community involvement. "Dr. Hall's integrity, vision, and commitment, coupled with an ambitious but measurable platform, proved to us that this is a critical opportunity to partner with Newark schools," Mann said.

Mann did, however, warn against the proposed cuts to the budget. "Reforming Newark public schools is a tall order under the very best of circumstances," he said. "Improving the system when significant financial cuts are made is impossible."

Parent Helen Washington took her opportunity to remind other parents in the audience that their involvement was lacking in the past, and needs to be stepped up in the future. She was met with applause when she said, "We could have stopped the state takeover. A lot of parents, when meetings were called by the state did not show up."

On March 4, the State Supreme Court is holding a hearing on school funding, and a number of organizations are sponsoring a rally to oppose funding cuts.

Tracy Luszcz made reference to the rally declaring that the Parents will get their voting rights and Board of Education back. "We're going to run it this time," she said, "and we are going to make sure our children get educated!"

Governor announces \$30 million in home buyer mortgages

Governor Christie Whitman has announced that the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (HMFA) will make available an additional \$30 million in first time and urban home buyer mortgages. This is the second mortgage money release of this size by HMFA since December 20, 1996 and, to date, home buyers have reserved more than \$30 million from the first issue. Proceeds

from the sale of housing revenue bonds allow HMFA to find mortgages at below-market interest rates.

HMFA creates realistic home ownership opportunities for low- and moderate-income buyers, and in urban areas presently designated for assistance by the governor's Urban Coordinating Council (UCC) using a variety of mortgage programs.

"By expanding home ownership,

especially in our urban areas, we are helping New Jersey families take control of their housing costs and take responsibility for their neighborhoods," said Gov. Whitman.

"We are pleased to be able to offer these mortgages at the lowest rates since September 1995," said HMFA Chairman Jane M. Kenny. "This is another example of how HMFA has followed through on the

governor's pledge to make a major impact on affordable housing."

First time home buyer mortgages are available at rates as low as 6 3/4 % with 3 points, or 7 1/2 % with 0 points. First time home buyers with qualified income levels may purchase newly constructed or existing single family homes, include condominiums, and one- or two-family units. These rates are also available for the

Home Plus mortgage and repair loan program.

The "Too Good But Its True" program makes mortgages available at 5% with 0 points for qualified buyers in UCC neighborhoods throughout Asbury Park, Camden, Elizabeth, Jersey City, Long Branch, New Brunswick, Newark, Trenton and Vineland.